



This is the first agronomic bulleting for Winter Linseed grown for harvest 2018. Bulletins are issued by Premium Crops throughout the growing year, from drilling right through to combining. Bulletins are designed to aid agronomists and growers in the decision making process of growing Winter Linseed, thus making it as easy and successful as possible.

### **Seed Deliveries**

Seed deliveries are underway.

### **Crop Establishment**

Start clean—make sure that any volunteers or weeds are killed off before planting by spraying with glyphosate (e.g. Roundup). Ensure seedbeds are not compacted.

### **Fertiliser**

*Nitrogen:* Winter Linseed **does not** usually benefit from Autumn applied Nitrogen. Nitrogen management will be dealt with in later bulletins in the spring.

*P & K:* Peak demand for P&K is in the Spring. For P&K indices of less than 2, an application will be required in the Autumn to aid establishment. These can be applied flexibly to fit in with usual farm fertiliser policy. Ensure the value of all organic manure is accounted for in the P & K calculations. For a 3.0 tonne/hectare crop, Winter Linseed needs the following total P&K;

Soil Index	P (kg/ha)	K (kg/ha)	Timing
0	100	90	Split Autumn & Spring
1	100	65	
2	50	40	At anytime
3+	0	0	

*Magnesium:* Ensure the soil index is maintained at Index 1.

*Zinc:* Encourages rooting and branching in Winter Linseed, is often applied with SU herbicides to reduce crop stress.

## Drilling Date

- Winter Linseed requires planting into warm, moist soil.
- Sowing date should be sufficiently early to allow good establishment (7.5 cm tall crop) before Winter.
- Generally, sow from 1st September to:
  - 15th September in the North
  - 25th September in the Midlands
  - End of September in the South
- Conditions are far more important than sowing date. Later sowing allows enhanced stale seedbed usage.

## Cultivation

Winter Linseed likes a firm, well consolidated seedbed and so is particularly suited to min-till/direct drill situations.



**Figure 1: less than suitable**



**Figure 2: much better**

### Top Tip:

*Drill Winter Linseed with a drill suitable for wheat drilling. Wide row spacing, single leg drills which have become popular for establishing Oilseed Rape with, offer no advantage to Winter Linseed.*

## Sowing Depth

- Sow 2.0 – 3.0 cm deep (of settled soil) - depth is important for herbicide safety.
- Rolling after sowing provides ideal seed/soil contact, rapid emergence and provides the best surface for herbicide use.
- On light soils especially, the rolling needs to be substantial to minimise risk of frost lift.

## Seed Rate

The optimum seeding rate for Winter Linseed is 450 seeds/m<sup>2</sup>. For the correct sowing rate please refer to the following guide:

Variety	Pack Size	Est TSW	Seeding Rate
Alpaga	15.5kg	6.8g	31kg/ha
Sideral	16.5kg	7g	32kg/ha
Volga	16kg	7.2g	32kg/ha

*Continued overleaf*

**Top Tip: Do not increase the seeding rate.**

*Winter Linseed varieties produce more side branches than Spring Linseed varieties. By increasing the seeding rate, the canopy can become overcrowded and linseed plants will compete with each other for resources, thus producing thinner stalks and dramatically increasing the risk of lodging.*

## PRE-EMERGENCE WEED CONTROL

Pre-emergence herbicide is required as the first step in a sequenced weed control programme.

### **Blackgrass Situations – Pre-Emergence**

- *Optimise the Use of Avadex*
- Applied 'at planting' Avadex can give 80% Blackgrass control and excellent weed sensitisation.
- Applied 1 week after planting this level of control drops to 50% with reduced sensitisation – it is hence essential to apply Avadex synchronously with planting.

Product	Rate	Notes
Avadex Excel 15g	15kg/ha	Immediately after sowing

If contractors are being used (and timeliness of application is difficult) or if conditions are dry, it may be better to have the granules applied up to a week before planting and harrowed in; the crop then being drilled through the herbicide and rolled.

Avadex Excel 15 g will give good control of Meadow Grass and some ABLW (Charlock, Chickweed, Cleaver, Fumitory, Mayweed, Pansy, Poppy)

### **Annual Broad Leaf Weeds**

The following gives excellent pre-emergence weed control of most weeds:

Product	Rate	Notes
Callisto	0.75lt/ha	Pre crop emergence

*Note: Using Callisto should mean other ABLW can be left until Spring (and reduces the need to use an Autumn applied SU), giving a full range of products to choose from.*

**Top Tip:**

*In Blackgrass situations, apply Avadex first and then follow it with Callisto, trials have shown this improves the efficacy of Avadex against blackgrass by 46% in some cases.*

## POST-EMERGENCE WEED CONTROL

### Volunteer Cereal Control

Most 'fop or dim' herbicides can be used in Winter Linseed in the Autumn. Tackle volunteer cereals early whilst growing conditions are good.

Most of these 'fop & dim' products can be used from very early crop growth stages and at reduced rates to control cereals volunteers before they have 3 leaves – so apply early at the lowest recommended rate.

A suitable example would be:

Product	Rate	Notes
Fusilade Max	0.4 l/ha	When the crop has 2 true leaves Volunteers <2 true leaves By the end of October latest

When used at higher dose rates and in poorer growing conditions crop check can be severe and growth sensitised to following herbicides.

**FULL POST-EMERGENCE HERBICIDE OPTIONS WILL BE DISCUSSED IN LATER BULLETINS**

### Pests

Winter Linseed is not susceptible to slug damage, flea beetle or other pests, however, always check emerging crops regularly and treat if any problems arise.

**Always read the label before using pesticides.**

**Avadex Excel 15 g and Callisto have EAMU for use in Linseed.**

**Usage under EAMU is entirely at the grower's risk.**

### Contact

Our agronomist Sam Deane is happy to take your calls on questions or queries you might have.

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